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No. V.

IMPROVED VARIETY OF RAY GRASS OR
LOLIUM PERENNE.

The SILVER CERES MEDAL was this session presented to GEORGE WHITWORTH, Esq., of Acre-house, near Caistor, Lincolnshire, for an improved variety of Lolium Perenne or Ray Grass, raised by him. The following communication has been received from the candidate, and seeds of the grass are in the Society's possession.

SIR,

London, March 9, 1825.

OBSERVING amongst the premiums offered by the Society of Arts, &c., a medal for the production of a specimen of *lolium perenne* possessing superior qualities to the kinds hitherto cultivated, I beg to offer a variety which I selected, and have grown for many years, and which, from the experience resulting from my particular enquiries into the properties and habits of the perennial ray grasses, I have found to be of more value than any other coming under my notice, being early in its growth in the spring, productive in its foliage, and giving, I believe, more nutritive matter than any other. This grass has also the advantage of yielding a fair quantity of seed, which ripens tolerably early, and may, from this circumstance, be profitably cultivated in some of the late ripening districts, or in situations of considerable elevation.

The aftermath, or autumnal produce, is equal to that of any with which I am acquainted, and this plant not only keeps its verdure in the winter months, but, in moderately open weather, always continues to grow at that season. To give some idea of the value of this ray grass, I beg to state that a field of upwards of twenty acres was sown down in April 1819, with about two pecks and a half per acre of seed. This piece of land was cropped for seed in 1820, 21, 22, and 23, four years in succession; in the autumn of the latter year, being then a full and fine sward, part of it was broken up for wheat, and the residue for oats, in the following spring, the whole being in a remarkably clean state. I believe it is pretty generally known that I have devoted much time to the cultivation of ray grass, and I trust that I may be presumed to possess some information on the subject. I feel it right to avail myself of the opportunity afforded by the Society of presenting the accompanying specimens and seed of my variety, and shall be happy to give every information that may be further wished connected with the subject.

I have the honour to be, sir,

A. Aikin, Esq.

&c. &c. &c.

Secretary, &c. &c.

GEORGE WHITWORTH.

Certificates from neighbouring farmers who have tried the grass, assert that it is far superior to the usual varieties, both in the bulk of produce, early growth, and durability.